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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application Inventors: William R. Dubrul SC/Serial No.: Confirm. No.: Filed: Herewith Title: PARTICLE-REMOVING MEDICAL DEVICE AND METHOD	Group Art Unit: 3763 (assumed) Examiner: Atty. Docket No.: ARTM 1008-6 <u>Customer No. 22470</u>
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Commissioner for Patents
BOX PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Sir:

Applicant requests **deletion of Richard E. Fulton** as an inventor because he is not an inventor of any of the claims of this continuation patent application.

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/298,279 filed on 23 April 1999, which application claimed the benefit of **and incorporated by reference** two provisional applications, including Provisional Patent Application No. **60/083,178** filed on April 27, 1998. The present application is substantially identical to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/298,279 with the following exceptions:

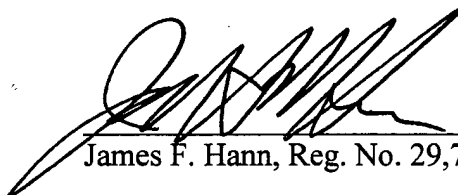
1. The section entitled CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION has been modified to reflect the continuation status.
2. The section discussing figures 5A-7 at page 15, lines 1-14 has been added. This material has been taken from Provisional Patent Application No. 60/083,178 at page 5, line 28 - page 6, line 15 so that this addition involves no new matter.
3. The end of the section entitled DESCRIPTION OF THE EXEMPLARY EMBODIMENTS extending from page 30, line 18 through page 34, line 7 has been added. This material has been taken from Provisional Patent Application No. 60/083,178 at page 14, line 30 - page 20, line 21 so that this addition involves no new matter.

4. The claims are new. Claims 1-10 are related to claims found in issued U.S. Patent No. 6,258,115 (assigned to the same Assignee as this application). Claims 11-18 are related to claims that were at one time pending but were restricted out and canceled during the prosecution of the application that issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,258,115.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 17 January 2002

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